

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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SUBJECT: ZHIVKOV SPEAKS ON PLANS THROUGH 1990

REFS: A) SOFIA 3720 ?) SOFIA A-50; C) SOFIA 1610; D) SOFIA 1648

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN MAJOR POLICY SPEECH SETTING GUIDELINES THROUGH 1990, PRESIDENT ZHIVKOV CALLED FOR INCREASE IN CAPITAL INVESTMENT, INCREASED SHIFT WORK, AND "MATERIAL STIMULATION" FOR INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY, ALONG WITH A RESTRUCTURING OF RESEARCH EFFORTS TO MORE DIRECTLY AND SPEEDILY CONTRIBUTE TO PRODUCTION PROCESS. OUTLINING PLANS FOR RAISING LIVING STANDARDS HE CITED AMONG OTHER THINGS NEED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF 1,600,000 DWELLINGS BY 1990. HE TIED WAGE INCREASES TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY AND GAVE FIRST HINT OF POSSIBLE PRICE INCREASES FOR RETAIL GOODS. HIS REMARKS ON FOREIGN RELATIONS CONTAINED NOTHING NOT PREVIOUSLY REPORTED.
END SUMMARY.

2. TUDOR ZHIVKOV'S SPEECH TO BURGAS BCP COMMITTEE PLENUM ON AUGUST 5 WAS PRINTED IN ENTIRETY IN RABOTNICHESKO DELO AUGUST 7 COMPLETELY FILLING FRONT PAGE AND OVER HALF OF SECOND PAGE. BILLED AS IDEOLOGICAL, SPEECH WAS MAJOR POLICY STATEMENT, PARTICULARLY ON ECONOMY, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL MATTERS AND LIVING STANDARDS, WHICH WAS ONLY LOOSELY AND SOMETIMES TORTUOUSLY LINKED WITH IDEOLOGY. TWO ADDITIONAL SECTIONS, ONE ON WORK OF PARTY MEMBERS WITH INDIVIDUALS AND ONE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, WERE OF LITTLE INTEREST.

3. DEVELOPMENT OF THE ECONOMY

A. REVEALING BASIC DIRECTIONS APPROVED BY BCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM IN FEBRUARY (REFTEL A) FOR SEVENTH FIVE-YEAR PLAN AND FOR PERIOD TO 1980, ZHIVKOV SAID MAIN STRATEGIC TASK IS MODERNIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF PRODUCTION ON BASIS OF CONCENTRATION AND SPECIALIZATION AND A SHARP INCREASE IN EFFECTIVENESS OF ECONOMY, WITH FOLLOWING AS CONTRIBUTING FACTORS.

- INCREASE IN CAPITAL INVESTMENT DURING SEVENTH FIVE-YEAR PLAN BY 50-60 PERCENT OVER SIXTH FIVE-YEAR PLAN.
- INCREASE IN SHIFT WORK
- "IMPROVEMENT OF MECHANISM FOR MATERIAL STIMULATION" IN INCREASING LABOR PRODUCTIVITY.

B. CURRENTLY FAVORED FORM OF MODERNIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, A KIND OF DO-IT-YOURSELF, MADE CLEAR THROUGH EXAMPLES ZHIVKOV CITED. FACTORIES ARE TO CARRY OUT SUCH ADDITIONAL PROJECTS WITH OWN SPECIALISTS, ENGINEERS, AND LABOR AND WITHOUT INTERRUPTING CURRENT PRODUCTION. AS REGARDS SHIFT WORK, ZHIVKOV SPOKE OF PLANTS WITH EQUIPMENT ALREADY OPERATING ON AN "UNINTERRUPTED" SEVEN-DAY WORKWEEK.

C. COMMENT: ABOVE ARE NOT REALLY NEW ELEMENTS. PREMIER TODOROV EMPHASIZED SHIFT WORK AND INCENTIVE PAY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN REPORT TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN MARCH (REF B). DO-IT-YOURSLEF RECONSTRUCTION AND MODERNIZATION ALONG WITH SIX AND SEVEN DAY FACTORY OPERATIONS DESPITE FIVE-DAY WORKWEEK FOR INDIVIDUALS HAS BEEN FEATURE IN PRESS AND TELEVISION FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. ZHIVKOV STATEMENT PUTS FINAL STAMP ON PROGRAM.

4. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL PROGRESS

A. REFERRING TO JULY 22-23 BCP CC PLENUM WHICH APPROVED GUIDELINES IN SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL FIELD THROUGH 1990, ZHIVKOV CALLED FOR INTENSIVE (I.E., MORE FOCUSED), RATHER THAN

PREVIOUS EXTENSIVE ACTIVITY WITH EFFORTS DIRECTLY RELATED TO IMPROVING PRODUCTION. HE SAID UNITS ARE BEING CREATED WHERE SCIENCE AND PRODUCTION ARE DIRECTLY CONECTED IN THE SAME ENTERPRISE. HE FURTHER CALLED FOR MORE SPEEDY APPLICATION OF DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN RESEARCH TO PRODUCTION PROCESS.

B. ZHIVKOV INDICATED THAT NUMBERS OF HIGH-LEVEL SCHOLARLY PERSONNEL WOULD BE DECREASED, BUT THAT QUALITY WOULD BE INCREASED. HE POINTED OUT NECESSITY OF GREATER PRESTIGE FOR SCHOLARS AND CITED THEIR CURRENT MISUSE IN WORK UNRELATED TO THEIR SKILLS. HE FURTHER STATED INFORMATION INDICATED SCIENTISTS WERE FORCED TO DEVOTE "EXCESSIVE TIME" TO MEETINGS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHICH INTERFERED WITH THEIR DIRECT SCIENTIFIC DUTIES.

C. COMMENT: ZHIVKOV'S REMARKS ARE DIRECTED TOWARD A TIGHTENING UP OF THE SCHOLARLY AND RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT (SOMETHING BADLY IN NEED OF DOING) AND MORE EFFECTIVELY AND RAPIDLY GEARING ITS EFFORTS TOWARD PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS. HIS REMARKS ON PRESTIGE AND TIME LOST IN EXTRANEIOUS ACTIVITIES HINTS AT CREATION OF SPECIAL STATUS FOR SCHOLARS. HERZ

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5. LIVING STANDARDS

A. ZHIVKOV ANNOUNCED THAT A FUTURE BCP CC PLENUM WOULD DRAW UP GUIDELINES FOR IMPROVEMENT OF LIVING STANDARDS THROUGH 1990. FOR SEVENTH FIVE-YEAR PLAN, HE OUTLINED EIGHT TASKS.

--OVERCOMING SHORTAGE OF SOME GOODS
--SOLVING HOUSING PROBLEM (CONSTRUCTION OF 500,000 DWELLINGS DURING NEXT FIVE-YEAR PLAN AND 1,600,00 BY 1990).

--BETTER CHILD CARE
--IMPROVEMENT OF EDUCATION
--IMPROVED RETIREMENT AND CARE OF ELDERLY
--SATISFACTION OF NEEDS FOR PUBLIC CATERING AND

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IMPROVED COMMUNAL SERVICES

--IMPROVED TRANSPORTATION IN CITIES
--IMPROVEMENT OF HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

B. ZHIVKOV STATED CONTINUED INCREASES IN REAL AND NOMINAL SALARIES WOULD MAINLY DEPEND DIRECTLY ON INCREASES OF LABOR PRODUCTIVITY AND THE QUALITY OF PRODUCTION AND SERVICES. HE ADDED THAT A MAJOR CONCERN WAS CONTINUED STABILITY OF V
NSUMER PRICES, BUT WARNED THAT RETAIL PRICES WOULD HAVE TO CORRESPOND TO "NECESSARY EXPENSES OF LABOR AND QUALITY OF THE PRODUCTS".

C. COMMENT: STATEMENT ON RETAIL PRICES IF FIRST HINT THAT INCREASES FOR CONSUMER GOODS MAY BE IN OFFING. ALTHOUGH BULGARIANS HAVE PRIDED THEMSELVES ON MAINTAINING PRICES, IT HAS BEEN QUESTIONABLE HOW LONG THEY COULD IGNORE INFLATIONARY PRESSURES (REFTEL C).

6. WORK WITH COMMUNISTS AND THE PEOPLE AND FOREIGN RELATIONS

THESE TWO REMAINING SECTIONS CONTAINED LITTLE NEW OR OF INTEREST. FORMER OUTLINES NECESSITY OF PERSONAL ATTENTION TO AND CONTACTS AMONG PARTY MEMBERS AND WITH THE PEOPLE. LATTER REHASHES INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN WAKE OF CSCE SUMMIT, FOLLOWING SAME LINES PREVIOUSLY REPORTED REFTEL D, AND INCLUDING STATEMENT BULGARIA DOES "NOT ACKNOWLEDGE THE PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE OF OUR IDEOLOGY WITH ANY IDEOLOGY WHICH IS ALIEN TO US."

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